

ARRIAN

Soldier, governor, and philosopher

Excerpts from “The Anabasis of Alexander,” A.D. 171

[Alexander] was ... very [famous] for rousing the courage of his soldiers, filling them with hopes of success and dispelling their fear in the midst of danger by his own freedom from fear ...

For I myself believe that there was at that time no race of mankind, no city, no individual [to whom] the name of Alexander had not reached. And so not I can suppose that a man quite beyond all other men was born without some divine influence.

He was ... very heroic in courage, ... He was very clever in recognising what was necessary to be done, when others were still in a state of uncertainty; ... In ... ruling an army, he was exceedingly skillful; and very renowned for rousing the courage of his soldiers, filling them with hopes of success, and dispelling their fear in the midst of danger by his own freedom from fear. He was likewise very [dedicated to] keeping the agreements and settlements which he made.

His adoption of the Persian [way] of dressing also seems to me to have been a political device in regard to the foreigners, that the king might not appear altogether alien to them.

...what a height of human success he attained, becoming without any dispute king of both continents,” and reaching every place by his fame.